**Prompt Tips**

When you set out to create workable prompts, the following suggestions are a good thing to keep in mind:

Let the writer draw on experience

Avoid prompts that require specialized knowledge

Allow choice

Use open-ended prompts with room for divergent responses

Allow for choice of topics within a prompt or provide a choice between two similar prompts

Offer a prompt that will spark the writer's imagination

Sometimes the only way to learn whether a prompt will fly is to try it out!

Don't do the thinking for the writer

Too many suggestions within a prompt can be overwhelming

Highly creative or clever prompts sometimes backfire

Avoid built-in positives and negatives

Leave students room to go in their own directions

Don't be nosy

Some students (and parents!) may resent prompts that require sharing personal details

Thoughtful wording can spark insight–even passionate beliefs–without putting a student in the hot seat

Make the purpose clear

Good writing is good writing, but if you want student responses to fit a particular purpose, make sure that all expectations and criteria are explicit

ROLE:  Like an actor, a writer in this task must become another person...just temporarily.  To accept a ROLE with this task, a writer will need to imagine he/she is actually writing as the ROLE they have been assigned.

AUDIENCE: This writing is not being written for your teacher's eyes.  It's being written for a bigger AUDIENCE.  The writer needs to figure out ways to craft his/her words and thoughts so that they are totally appropriate for the person or people the writer imagines to be reading it.

FORMAT:  People write more than just essays and book reports in the real world.  The FORM of your writing, as you will see by clicking the button on the left, can be many things.  Choose a FORMAT, if possible, that makes sense with your chosen Role and Audience.

TOPIC:  This is what your writing will be about.  Your teacher may have a specific idea for your TOPIC.

STRNG VERB:  The verb you choose will help you determine the purpose of the writing.  Writing without purpose is flat and dull.  Apply the STRONG VERB to the ROLE; the STRONG VERB becomes the ROLE's job when the writing is composed.

RAFT Review

Read the following prompts and do RAFT for each of them. Also, label each prompt according to what kind of informational writing it is asking you to do – cause/effect, problem/solution, definition.

1. From the viewpoint of a public official seeking re-election to office, write a speech to the citizens of your community that will discuss the problems of violent crime in your area. Include several solutions that you have in mind for resolving the problems of violent crime.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. From the viewpoint of a school guidance counselor, write an article for the local newspaper discussing the effects of peer pressure on high school students and how peer pressure is contributing to the overall stresses that teens have to face today.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Advertisements, commercial, and magazines give a superficial definition of beauty to consumers. As the editor of a new magazine that will focus on inner beauty, as opposed to outer beauty, write a letter to send to prospective buyers that defines what beauty really means to you.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. A famous celebrity has recently died. You are a reporter for the celebrity’s small town newspaper. Write an obituary that will show the effects on the celebrity of his/her early years in a small, close knit community.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Most people never read the lengthy manuals that accompany their new cars. As a car dealer who receives numerous telephone calls about problems with new cars, create a an owner’s manual that addresses basic problems and solutions of new vehicles.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The Arts Council would like to create a program to insure that children receive early exposure to music, paintings, sculpture, and dance. As the director of the Arts Council, write a proposal to the chamber of commerce in which you present the need for this program and request their monetary support.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. As a teen mother whose baby experienced early health problems due to your poor nutrition and smoking during pregnancy, you have decided to try to help other teen mothers and their babies. With this end in mind, you have written a pamphlet for teen mothers that will be distributed by the local public health clinic. The pamphlet will present health and fitness steps that a teen mother needs to take in order to insure a healthy baby.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. As we enter the 21st century, high school libraries are moving from simply collections of books and magazines, to multi-media centers with computer banks, video conferencing, and other advanced technology resources. As a high school librarian, write a newsletter to parents, informing them of the changes in your school’s library and its offerings.

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8. In today’s society, schools are experiencing increasing levels of violence. Students are often much more perceptive than adults as to the causes of teen violence. As the president of your senior class, you have been invited by the county superintendent to deliver a speech at the next school board meeting. You are to address possible causes of school violence and ways to prevent its outbreak.

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Type of informational writing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. Your high school principal has asked the student council to write a brochure for new students, introducing them to the school’s extra-curricular offerings. He wants the council members to make the brochure as welcoming, inviting, and as “student friendly” as possible.

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10. As a mayor of a small town, you have the opportunity to deliver a speech to a group of business executives who are interested in establishing branches in your town. Your town has recently lost its two largest employers and the rate of unemployment is high. You have ten minutes to present a snapshot picture of your community, it schools, public services, natural attractions, and proximity to interstate travel. You also need to include the effects these businesses relocations will have on your town.

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